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tests of the Indians themselves and of those who have built up the system through laborious years.

Next to these cultural and social causes for the Indian decline may be given the loss of industrial opportunities and the spread of disease. The latter cause could be more readily dealt with were it possible to separate it as a problem by itself. But the breakdown of the Indian industrially and the graft and corruption that have pervaded all government plans for betterment place a heavy handicap on the vitality of the tribes located on reservations. A half-starved Indian, a child lacking nourishment, an aged man or woman without regular food, are all of them more susceptible to disease than where they are well supplied with nourishing food. Without the cultural breakdown of their civilization, the Indian has been subjected to loss of vitality sufficient to account for all their losses. When to this sum total is added the spiritual increment of degradation, their decline is easily accounted for. Yet the author is far from pessimistic in presenting the outlook for the future. He leaves us no doubt, however, as to the reality of the crisis that now faces the federal authorities in their dealings with the Indians. Having allowed these people to be exploited, cheated, and exterminated through all the years, without appeal and in the face of all protests from disinterested workers and observers, there is but one thing for us to do and but a short space of time in which to undo the mischief. The work is a notable contribution to the literature of reform in the present generation and a fearless arraignment of graft and incompetence in our relations with our Indian wards. All lovers of humanity and all those who stand for fair play and even handed justice will welcome this presentation of the present situation among the American Indians.

ORIN G. LIBBY

John Ross and the Cherokee Indians. By Rachel Carolina Eaton, A.M. (Menasha, Wisconsin: George Banta Publishing Company, 1914. 212 p. \$1.50)

Indian history of Winneshiek county. Compiled by Charles Philip Hexom. (Decorah, Iowa: A. K. Bailey and Son, 1913. No page numbers)

Eaton's story of the Cherokee nation and of the special part taken in it by John Ross is a remarkable piece of work. There is little of novelty in the story of the wrongs done the Cherokee by the state of Georgia and by the federal government. Other tribes have been as shamelessly robbed and other treaties have been broken. The discovery of gold in their territories merely hastened the expulsion of the Cherokee from their lands, to the ownership of which the national faith had been pledged. What gives a unique interest to the long and hopeless contest

waged by this highly cultured tribe for their homes and firesides lies in the fact that they used the methods and expedients of the whites to protect themselves from injustice. Foreseeing the danger of divided councils they early developed a regular form of government, with executive, legislative, and judicial departments. Not satisfied with the usual device of delegations to the president, they hired able counsel and even carried their case to the federal supreme court. In all these steps toward better organization and national unity, the character of John Ross stands out in bold relief amid the divided councils of jealous rivals and vacillating friends. He seems to have been uniformly successful in anticipating unfriendly legislation and hostile policy and in meeting every form of attack with its appropriate defense. As is clearly brought out in the presentation, no Indian tribe so far in our history so nearly kept abreast of the industrial and social advance of their immediate environment and so successfully evoked our political machinery in defense of their rights. The Cherokee have the distinction of winning such champions to their side as Webster and Clay, and of being able to check both Alabama and Georgia in all efforts to seize their lands, even though President Jackson openly championed the cause of their white aggressors. Quite as remarkable as the astuteness, the skill, and the firmness of John Ross is the uniform loyalty of the great mass of the Cherokee to their leader and to their national cause. And after defeat, their capacity to recover lost ground and begin again their advance to unity and prosperity is brought out in a very striking manner in the account of their removal west of the Mississippi. The work is a distinct contribution to the literature of the modern Indian and it is also a well-written chapter in our own national history which no student can afford to overlook.

An admirable bibliography accompanies the study and adds much in point and definiteness to the conclusions reached.

The *Indian history of Winneshiek county* is a brief monograph evidently designed to call renewed attention to the necessity of beginning our local history with the story of the native inhabitants who preceded white settlement. This point is driven home with considerable skill by the author who is able to show the part played by two important Indian families in the early history of that part of the Northwest. In the second place we have presented to us an initial sketch of the entire Winnebago tribe. This story of their migrations and intertribal wars, their treaty relations with the French, the English, and the Americans, and their removal west of the Mississippi, make up a narrative of real importance to western historians. It is to be hoped that more complete studies will follow the lead of this unpretentious monograph and give us the entire history of the Winnebago.